SERIES 1

Marie of Greece

Villa Letitia
Rome
May 29th
1935

My dear Mr Garrett

Thank you ever so much for your kind letter, specially for all the trouble you have taken for me. I am ashamed to have worried you so much. I must own that I am rather disappointed as I had really hoped there would be a possibility to lend my collection to the U.S. The trouble is that this collection comes just now when people seem to be ruined all over the world.

Mr Newell wrote to you exactly what I had hoped, namely that some wealthy, philanthropic would purchase the collection & present it to the Numismatic Society." —

I am so sorry to think that although you are coming to Europe I will not have a chance of meeting you.

If your wife comes to Rome, I do hope to see her.

We miss you both here so

much.

Thanking you again for
all y^r trouble, kindly in-
tercede on my behalf, ever

Y^rs affectionately

Marie

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY AND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH STREET
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Garrett.

The collection of the Grand Duke George of Russia is well known to me by reputation. I should most certainly say that it would be almost impossible to sell it here in America for "a great sum". I know of no Museum which would be interested in purchasing this particular type of a collection. There are a few collectors around who are deeply interested in Russian coins but medals would leave them cold. Also, they already have good collections

of coins and would only be willing (or able) to purchase certain specimens which they lack – but certainly not the entire collection! Furthermore, the price for such coins has had a terrible slump over here, as you may imagine, and I am afraid what our collectors would be willing to pay would give the Princess heart failure. If she is figuring on a huge price she had indeed better turn to South America where there is still plenty of cash. I very much wonder, though if she will find anybody interested.

Of course the Numismatic Society would be interested in such a collection, as our Russian series is none too strong. But I am

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY AND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH STREET
NEW YORK

afraid, from what you say, that the price asked is exhorbitant. The Princess is surely thinking in gold dollars and pre-war prices. Russian coins, and particularly medals, never commanded in the outside world what they did in Russia. I am sure the Grand Duke George paid far higher for them in 1913 than anyone would give now-a-days.

You might, however, get in touch with a Mr. F. C. C. Boyd, 237 East 20th Street, New York, who,

I am given to understand, is himself interested in Russian coins and would surely be in touch with the market. His is the only name that I can suggest. Ofcourse, in a way, he is a semi-dealer but I believe a collector first, and not actually in the ordinary category of dealers. Otherwise I can think of no possible purchaser for the collection "en bloc".

Naturally, it would be splendid if we could find some wealthy philanthropist who would purchase the collection and present it to the Numismatic Society. Unfortunately, I can suggest no names.

Very sincerely, Edward T. New

"Villa Attica"
1 Via Bertoloni
Rome
1st Feb 1935

My dear Mr Garrett

When I last saw you
– which seems much too
long ago – I spoke to you con-
cerning my late husband's
Grand Duke George's famous
Numismatical Collection which
was kept in a Bank at Belgrade.
Well, I was lucky enough after a
very long & tedious fight to se-
cure it, now it is definitely
in my possession. You then

kindly said that you would try & find some one in the U.S.A. who would be interested in it & buy it from me. I am therefore writing to you with the hope that you have not forgotten & will be able & help me. It consist of Indian coins & are medals only. There are several thousand of them, - as you probably know, this collection was a well known one by all the Collectors & Students.

The only thing I would not like to that Will is an legend but yet into direct touch with the buyer. As it is worth a great deal, I was told that it would not be a bad idea to try & sell it to South-America where people are still very rich & very eages to aquire rare collections either for their Museums or privately. What do you think about that. L. —
Be be very kind & good & advise me what to do about all this.
I hope you are very well &

your dear wife too. I would love to see you again, have a chance of playing back-gammon with you again now that I have made progress do you remember how we used to fight? We miss you both so much here. Thanking you in advance I will [illegible] to both

Affectionately

Marie

R ROMA (Corrispóndenze) 2075

John Work Garrett Esq

Hotel Ponce de Leon
St. Augustine
Florida

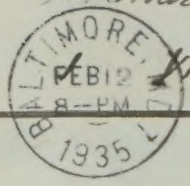
~~Baltimore~~

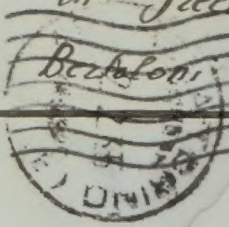
~~Md.~~

~~U.S. America~~

S. A. R. Principessa Maria di Grecia

Via Barcelona





March 20th, 1935.

Mr. Edward T. Newell,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Newell:-

I have received a letter from H.H.H. Princess Marie of Greece, who was a great friend of my wife's and mine when we were in Rome, where she lives. Her first husband was the Grand Duke George of Russia, who left what I understand is a well known and very important collection of Russian coins and rare medals. These were gotten out of Russia, but for some time have been in litigation, which has now beendecided in favor of the Princess Marie.

She spoke to me several times about this collection when I was in Rome, and she now writes to ask me to do what I can to find a purchaser for it. She does not want to have it go through any dealers.

I can tell you nothing about the

details of the collection, but if you are interested, or know someone who might be, I can easily put you in communication with her. She says in her letter that there are several thousand pieces in the collection, and that it is well known by all the collectors and museums. She further says, "As it is worth a great sum, I was told that it would not be a bad idea to try and sell it to South America, where people are still very rich and very eager to acquire rare collections, either for their museums or privately."

I shall much appreciate any suggestions or help that you can give me in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Chwe

March 25th, 1935.

F. C. C. Boyd, Esquire,
257 East 80th Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:-

At the suggestion of Mr. Edward T. Newell, I am writing you to see if you would be interested in a collection of Russian coins and medals.

I have received a letter from H.R.H. Princess Marie of Greene, who was a great friend of my wife's and mine when we were in Rome, where she lives. Her first husband was the Grand Duke George of Russia, who left what I understand is a well known and very important collection of rare coins and medals. There were gotten out of Russia, but for some time have been in litigation, which has now been decided in favor of the Princess Marie.

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She says in her letter that there are several thousand pieces in the collection, and it is well known by all collectors and museums. She further says "As it is worth a great sum, I was told that it would not be a bad idea to try to sell it to South America, where people are still very rich and very eager to acquire rare collections, either for their museums or privately."

Mr. Newell writes me that this collection is well known to him by reputation, but he knows of no one, except possibly yourself, and of no museum which would be interested in purchasing this particular type of a collection, though, of course, the Numismatic Society would be interested in such a collection, as their Russian series is none too strong. Naturally, Mr. Newell adds, it would be splendid if we could find some wealthy philanthrophist who would purchase the collection and present it to the Numismatic Society.

I should be glad to hear from you in regard to this collection, and if you desire it can put you in direct touch withPPrincess Marie.

Very truly yours,

May 14th, 1935.

Dear Madame:-

I have done everything I can think of to get someone interested here in your great collection, but, I am sorry to say, without any success at all.

It seems that there are very few collectors of Russian coins, and none at all, as far as I have been able to find out, of Russian medals in this country. The numismatic societies would be glad, of course, to have such a collection, but they are all of them struggling along without funds, and indeed this applies to a great many private collectors too.

There have been several auction sales of coins recently in New York, but with the exception of some American coins the prices have been far below those of a few years ago.

Mr. Edward T. Newell, President of the American Numismatic Society, with whom

I first got in touch on my return from the South, knows the collection by reputation, but he says that in his opinion it would be almost impossible to sell it here in America. He knows of no museum which would be interested in purchasing this particular type of a collection. There are a few collectors around, he says, who are deeply interested in Russian coins, but medals would leave them cold; also they already have good collections of coins and would only be willing or able to purchase certain specimens which they lack, but certainly not the entire collection. Furthermore, he says, the price of such coins has had a terrible slump over here.

I have written several letters, at Mr. Newell's suggestion, to collectors, but I have had no satisfactory responses.

Mr. Newell finally says, "Naturally it would be splendid if we could find some wealthy philanthropist who would purchase the collection and present it to the Numismatic Society. Unfortunately, I can suggest no name."

I shall, of course, keepthe matter in mind and let you know if anything turns

up, but I am afraid it is a particularly bad time at present as far as this country is concerned.

Alice and I are sailing for Gibraltar on the "Rex" towards the end of this month, and are taking a few weeks motor trip through Southern Spain, which neither of us knows very well. Then we shall go to Paris for a little while and later to London, before returning home in August. There is no chance of my going to Italy, but a slight chance that Alice may run down to Rome to see the Quadriennale. If she does she will certainly look forward to seeing you, if you are happily there.

We look back always with happy memories to our years in Rome, but are not unhappy at living quietly. I, in my library, am associating more intimately than I have been able to for years with my books. When you make your promised trip to America, you must visit us here.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

H.R.H. Princess Marie of Greece,
1 Via Bertolini,
Rome, Italy.

Box IV Folder 12b Marie of Greece 1935 (JWG)